



Serving the Cities of Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Pomona

December 2004

Dear Friend,

My staff and I send everyone good wishes this holiday season. The winter holidays are a time to appreciate time spent with family and friends and being grateful for all we hold dear.

It is also a time to remember those who aren't as fortunate as we are. Please think about spending some time volunteering with your favorite charity. There are also plenty of toy drives you may wish to contribute to. I have included in this month's newsletter some holiday events taking place around the district. Several include Spark of Love toy drives sponsored by local fire departments.

Please buckle up and stay safe.



You're invited!
Holiday Open House

Thursday, Dec. 16
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
District Office:
4959 Palo Verde St.
Suite 100B, Montclair

RSVP
at
(909) 621-2783

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Volunteers Needed

San Bernardino County's long term care Ombudsman program is looking for volunteers to advocate for dignity, quality of life and quality of care for all residents in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, convalescent hospitals, board and care facilities and assisted living facilities.

The Ombudsman Program vision is a long-term care system in which the individual retains choice and control.

Volunteers must receive 36 hours of classroom training with additional hours spent with an experienced ombudsman before performing ombudsman duties.

For more information call (866) 229-0284.

Holiday Happenings

Pomona: *Jaycees 53rd Annual Christmas Parade*, Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Holt Ave. from San Antonio to East End Blvd. *Holiday Prelude and City Hall Tree Lighting Ceremony*, Mon. Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m. Pomona Civic Ctr., 505 S. Garey Ave.

Montclair: *Spark of Love Toy Drive*. Bring unwrapped toys to Station No. 1, 8901 Monte Vista Ave., from now until Dec. 20th.

Chino: *Youth Holiday Parade and Fair*, Sat., Dec. 11, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Parade begins at 9 a.m. starting at Yorba & Riverside Dr., traveling eastbound on Riverside to Central Avenue, turning right and traveling south on Central Ave. to Chino Ave., turning right to disband.
Ontario:

Ontario: *21st Annual Handcrafted Arts and Crafts Fair*, Sat., Dec. 4 (rain date Dec. 11), 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Includes health and education fair, chili cook-off, car show, business expo.

IRS reinstates educators' expense deductions; *teachers can be reimbursed as much as \$250*

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is advising teachers and other educators to save their receipts for books and other classroom supplies. They will be able to deduct up to \$250 of such expenses again this year, following recently-enacted legislation.

The Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004 reinstated the educator expense deduction, which had expired at the end of last year, for both 2004 and 2005. Expenses incurred any time this year may qualify for the deduction, not just those since the Act was signed on October 4.

The deduction is available to eligible educators in public or private elementary or secondary schools. To be eligible, a person must work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide.

An educator may subtract up to \$250 of qualified out-of-pocket expenses when figuring adjusted gross income (AGI). This deduction is available whether or not the taxpayer itemizes deductions on Schedule A.

The IRS suggests that educators keep records of qualifying expenses in a folder or envelope with a label such as "Educator Expense Deduction," noting the date, amount and purpose of each purchase. This will help prevent a missed deduction at tax time.

For more information, call the IRS Tele-Tax system toll-free at 1-800-829-4477 and select Topic 458, or go online at www.irs.gov.newsroom.

New Domestic Violence Laws take effect Jan. 1

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in America. But it is not limited to women -- children, the elderly and men have been victims of domestic abuse.

Policy changes at the federal level have caused drastic cuts in funding for domestic violence programs. As a result, many programs have been eliminated, services cut and women and children forced out of shelters.

As a member of the Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence, I want to report that this past year legislation passed that allows California to continue funding at pre-October, 2001 levels. This decision will enable programs to continue to serve as many people as possible. A number of the bills passed will protect Californians from family violence.

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Chino Marine dies in Iraq

Lance Cpl. Abraham Simpson killed Nov. 9

Chino resident Abraham Simpson, 19, was killed in a firefight during the U.S. push into Falluja, Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

Simpson, a graduate of Southland Christian School in Walnut, enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduation and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

He is survived by his parents, Maria and James Simpson, and brothers David and Paul.

Remember Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941



Pearl Harbor, on the Island of O'ahu, Hawaii, was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Navy

At about 8 a.m. Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, the first wave of aircraft struck in an attack that lasted half an hour.

After a lull, a second wave of the attack took place at 8:45 a.m. that lasted another hour.

More than 2,000 sailors and several hundred other service members and civilians were killed. Five battleships and three other ships were sunk or beached; three battleships and ten other ships were damaged.

The USS Arizona is the final resting place for many of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives. The USS Arizona Memorial, a 184-foot-long structure spanning the mid-portion of the sunken battleship, was completed in 1961. The memorial was dedicated in 1962.



District Notes



Chino

A playground designed to accommodate disabled children opened at Prado Regional Park in Chino last month.

The Fun for All playground, the first of its kind in San Bernardino County, is a facility inspired in part by an L.A.-based organization that provides fully integrated, universally accessible play areas for children of all abilities.

Prado Regional Park is located on the southwestern edge of the county and can be accessed from the 71 or 60 Freeways using the Euclid Avenue exit.

Ontario

Residents living under the flight path of Ontario International Airport are getting a reprieve from the noise, thanks to funding from Los Angeles World Airports and the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

At a cost of \$10.5 million, 640 homes located near the airport have already received sound-muffling windows, doors and air conditioning under the Quiet Homes program. Another 60 homes will have sound insulation work completed by the end of next year. As many as 2,100 homes will also receive treatment as funding is released. According to city officials, work on each home costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Montclair

Monte Vista Water District customers can get a \$50 rebate from the district when they replace a pre-1994 toilet with a greater than 1.6 gallon flushing capacity with a new low flow toilet. For information or an application, call the district at 909 624-0035 or log onto its website at www.mvwd.org.

FTC issues rule on free annual credit reports

The Federal Trade Commission has ruled that the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian and Trans Union – must provide to consumers, upon request, a free copy of their credit report once every 12 months.

The rule provides for a gradual, structured roll-out for the establishment of a “centralized source” for accepting consumer requests.

The FTC has also ruled that the agencies must have adequate capacity to accept requests from the reasonably anticipated volume of consumers making requests, and that they must provide clear and easily understandable information and instructions on how to make requests

The agencies may collect only as much personally identifiable information as necessary to process those requests, and may not include any advertising or marketing that interferes with, detracts from or undermines the purpose of the centralized source.

To order your report online or by phone, call or log onto:

Experian: www.experian.com; (888) 397-3742

Equifax: www.equifax.com; (800) 685-1111

TransUnion: www.transunion.com; (800) 493-2392

Inland Empire Ahead of Job Growth Curve

The Press Enterprise newspaper is reporting that job growth is not only ahead of the curve in the Inland Empire, San Bernardino and Riverside counties are increasing the number of middle class jobs.

The Inland Empire added 15,000 new jobs during the first seven months of 2004. While the biggest gain came in low-end sectors, there has been a bigger gain in middle-class jobs than any other Southern California county except San Diego.

The region also added a higher percentage of top-income jobs such as managers, attorneys and other executive positions than either L.A or Orange counties.

The manufacturing sector has stabilized in the Inland Empire, and there is growth in technology and the aerospace industry.

The bad news is that L.A. County lost 5,700 factory jobs during the same period.



Domestic violence... cont. from page 2

Legislation

AB 352: Increased probation fines for batterers.

This bill raises the minimum fine that batterers granted probation must pay from \$200 to \$400. The measure also alters the way the money is allocated: two-thirds will go to the respective county and must be deposited into a domestic violence programs special fund. The other one-third goes to the state. It, too, is allocated for use by domestic violence programs.

AB 134: Increased sentences for felony domestic violence. AB 134 increases the fine from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for those convicted of felony domestic violence within 7 years of a prior conviction for misdemeanor domestic violence. (Current law also allows for a batterer to be sentenced to as much as four years in state prison.)

AB 184: Confidentiality of DMV records for Safe at Home participants. This bill provides that a person who can verify they are a victim of a stalking or is at risk due to domestic violence may suppress his or her registration or drivers license record from another person. AB 184 expands the group of individuals eligible for suppressing their information to include participants of the Secretary of State's confidentiality program (called Safe at Home) who can present a program certificate or ID card. Those eligible can have their information suppressed for up to four years, plus additional four-year periods upon submission of current program certificate or ID card. Disclosure of suppressed information is now a crime as a result of AB 184.

AB 1290: Gun prohibitions, warrantless arrests for protective and restraining orders. This legislation prohibits individuals who have stalking emergency protective orders filed against them may not own, possess, purchase, receive or attempt to purchase or receive a firearm while the protective order is in effect. The bill also adds stalking protective orders, elder abuse restraining orders, ex parte orders issued during child dependency proceedings, and any orders issued under the Family Code to the list of orders that are subject to the warrantless arrest provision.

AB 1488: Bail release for violation of protective and restraining orders. Existing law provides that before an individual who has been arrested for certain crimes may be released on bail for an amount other than that on the schedule of bail, the court must hold a hearing during which it considers various factors, including the danger that the person may pose to others if released. This bill adds violations of protective orders for domestic violence, civil harassment, workplace violence or elder or dependent adult abuse to the list of crimes that triggers the hearing requirement.